

Schmester, Log Granary
Road 429, 1 mile east of Route 896
on the north side of the road
Armstrong Corner Vicinity
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DE-221-B

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PHOTOGRAPHS
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

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| STATE Delaware | COUNTY New Castle | TOWN OR VICINITY St. Georges Hundred Armstrong Corner vicinity |
| HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Achmester, Log Granary (family papers) | | HABS NO. DE-221-B |
| SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE | | |
| COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) North side of route 429 approximately one mile east of the intersection with Route 896 (Armstrong Corner) | | |
| DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) ca. 1820 (construction; Mansfield account books) | ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) | |
| SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The Achmester log granary is one of three agricultural buildings erected in southern New Castle prior to 1825 that is known to have survived. The building is important as an early example of consolidated grain processing and storage functions in one barr. | | |
| STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) | | |
| MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) V-notched log set on a joined sill and clad with vertical board siding. Rubble masonry piers. Common rafter roof set directly on plate. Earthfast central truss supporting granary floors. | | |
| SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) see measured drawings. | | |
| EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Granary faces south with a primary gable elevation divided into three bays. Side bays are log walled corn cribs; central bay braced frame post- and-rail threshing floor; loft area used as plank-walled granary. Board-and-batten doors hung on wrought strap hinges. Original nails are hand-headed cut. | | |
| INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The most interesting feature is the truss used to support the granary floor. A tie beam (independently framed on two posts set on stone pads in the earth) runs from inside the west wall to inside the east wall. Also notable are the original plank framed knee walls of the loft. | | |
| MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Mid 19th-century cattle shed added to north end of original structure (see measured drawings); mid 20th-century addition of silo and conversion of cattle shed to dairy barn. | | |
| PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good; vacant. | | |
| OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Farm was owned by Richard Mansfield from ca. 1820-1846 and the Nowland family from ca. 1846-1910. | | |
| SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) National Register of Historic Places; Delaware State Archives probate records and Richard Mansfield's account books (ca. 1820-1840); family papers (including Nowland household accounts 1898-1902); Delaware Rural History Project. | | |
| COMPILER, AFFILIATION Bernard Herman, Asst Director, Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering, Univ. of Delaware | DATE 7-3-85 | |